- 1 Q. Please state your names. Andrew G. Wood, Richard McKnight, Lore de la Bastide, 2 Α. 3 Hollis Krieger, and Robert Sherman. In initial 4 testimony, we testified as the Customer Operations 5 Panel. What is the purpose of your additional testimony? 6 Ο. 7 We respond to the testimony of Staff witness Rieder, Α. Consumer Protection Board (CPB) witnesses Elfner and 8 9 Schultz/DeRonne, and City witness Chernick relating to 10 Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI"). We also 11 address testimony by Staff witness Graves on Mandatory Hourly Pricing ("MHP"); Staff's Consumer Services Panel 12 13 relating to Call Center applications, Low Income 14 Customer Needs and Field Operations; Staff's Consumer Services Panel and CPB witnesses Schultz/DeRonne 15 16 relating to Outreach; City Witness Galgano on the 17 Street Light Billing System (SLBS); Retail Energy 18 Supply Association (RESA) and Direct Energy Services, LLC witness Smith on the Retail Electric Market; and 19 Consumer Power Advocates witness Dowling on the Retail 20 21 Access Information System ("RAIS"). ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE 23 Do any of the parties address the Company's AMI Q.
- 22
- 24 program?

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- 1 A. Yes. Staff witness Rieder and CPB witnesses Elfner and
- 2 Schultz/DeRonne discuss issues related to the Company's
- 3 AMI proposal.
- 4 Q. Please explain.
- 5 A. Mr. Rieder notes that the Company's plan for the
- 6 development and deployment of advanced electric and gas
- 7 metering infrastructure, which was filed on March 28,
- 8 2007 in the Commission's AMI proceeding (Case Nos. 04-
- 9 E-0952, 00-E-0165, and 02-M-0514), is already under
- 10 Commission consideration and that a more timely
- decision on the Company's plan could be made in the AMI
- 12 proceeding than in this rate proceeding. Mr. Elfner
- and Schultz/DeRonne similarly argue that the Company's
- 14 AMI proposal be considered in the AMI proceeding and
- that the Company's proposed revenue requirement in this
- 16 case be reduced to exclude AMI costs.
- 17 Q. Do you agree with these recommendations?
- 18 A. No, we do not. Among other reasons, we are not
- 19 convinced that the Commission will necessarily rule on
- 20 the Company's AMI proposal in the AMI proceeding
- 21 earlier than the time for a decision in this
- 22 proceeding.
- 23 Q. Please explain why.

1	Α.	First, no schedule has been adopted in the AMI
2		proceeding that indicates a timeframe for a decision on
3		the pending proposals. Nor is Mr. Rieder in a position
4		to explain the Commission's intentions as to timing, as
5		indicated by his response to the Company's discovery
6		request No. 12 to Staff.
7		MARK FOR IDENTIFICATION AS EXHIBIT (CO-4)
8		Therefore, there is no certainty, or apparent
9		likelihood, that the Commission would render a decision
10		on the Company's proposal in the AMI proceeding earlier
11		than the timeframe for rendering a decision in this
12		case.
13	Q.	Does the Company have any objection to the AMI issue
14		being resolved earlier than March 2008 in the AMI
15		proceeding?
16	A.	We do not. And if that were to occur, the Commission
17		could consider its findings as to the AMI program in
18		that proceeding in rendering a decision in this rate
19		proceeding as to the Company's proposed recovery of AMI
20		costs in the rate years. However, the possibility of
21		Commission action in the AMI proceeding should not
22		prevent the consideration of the AMI efforts and
23		associated costs reflected in the Company's revenue

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requirement for the rate year and under the Company's

proposed three-year rate plan. 2 Why is it important to avoid the risk of not 3 4 considering the proposed AMI costs in this proceeding 5 and delayed Commission action in the AMI proceeding? 6 Α. As noted in the Company's initial testimony (pp. 7-8), 7 Con Edison believes that AMI is an important endeavor that "will provide a basis for cost-saving changes in 8 9 customer operations as well as enabling benefits for 10 customers, the environment, and society generally." 11 The Company proposes to install AMI throughout its 12 service territory on both electric and gas services by 13 2014. According to The City of New York ("City") 14 witness Chernick; our proposal is consistent with the Mayor's PlaNYC, which supports universal installation 15 of advanced meters by 2014. 16 17 Please continue. Q. Under the Commission's Order Relating to Electric and 18 Α. Gas Metering Services (issued Aug. 1, 2006 in Case 04-19 E-0952), Con Edison was required to file a 20 21 comprehensive plan for development and deployment of 22 advanced metering. To satisfy this order, the Company 23 commenced project development and investigation in The Company is currently moving forward 24 regard to AMI.

1		with AMI efforts, and resolution of this matter in this
2		case is needed so as not to unduly prejudice the
3		Company in pursuing these initial AMI efforts and if
4		those efforts are to continue.
5	Q.	As additional support for his position, Mr. Rieder
6		comments that it would be beneficial to review the
7		Company's individual AMI plan in the context of the
8		overall generic benefits and costs that the Commission
9		is considering with regard to AMI. Do you agree?
10	A.	No. The Commission ordered each utility in the state
11		to file a comprehensive plan for development and
12		deployment of AMI. Such plans need to be reviewed
13		individually by the Commission in order to properly
14		consider the unique aspects that apply to
15		implementation in the various service territories.
16	Q.	Does Mr. Rieder provide any other reasons why AMI
17		should be considered in the AMI proceeding and not in
18		the rate proceeding?
19	Α.	Yes. Mr. Rieder notes that because AMI affects both
20		the electric and gas businesses, it would be
21		inappropriate to make decisions regarding the Company's
22		AMI plan in a proceeding that considers only electric
23		matters. He notes further that the Joint Proposal
24		awaiting action in the pending Con Edison gas rate

- proceeding, Case No. 06-G-1332, does not address the
- 2 Company's AMI plan.
- 3 Q. Do you agree?
- 4 A. No. First we would note that the Joint Proposal in the
- 5 Company's gas rate proceeding provides for the Company
- to defer costs for AMI it is initiating, while
- 7 recognizing that the associated programs will be
- 8 considered in the AMI proceeding. In addition, single
- 9 service rate cases frequently address programs common
- 10 to the various services of a combination utility and
- adjust rates for that service's allocated share of
- 12 total costs.
- 13 Q. Please explain the CPB position in regard to the AMI
- 14 pilot projects.
- 15 A. Mr. Elfner recommends that the Company be permitted to
- 16 recover the costs of its AMI pilots in this proceeding
- 17 (p. 10). This position is supported by Schultz/DeRonne
- 18 (p. 67). However, Schultz/DeRonne state that these
- 19 costs should not be embedded in the revenue requirement
- 20 established in a one-year rate case because they are
- one-time in nature (p. 67).
- 22 Q. Do you agree?
- 23 A. No, we do not, as we do not understand what
- 24 Schultz/DeRonne mean when they say these costs are one-

- 1 time in nature. Costs incurred for the AMI pilots include costs for AMI meters and other AMI 2 3 infrastructure that are expected to remain in place as 4 part of the permanent AMI infrastructure after the 5 pilots are completed. The AMI pilots are being undertaken as the initial 6 7 stage of full scale AMI implementation to evaluate the performance of various aspects of the Company's 8 9 proposal and serve as an integral part of the AMI plan 10 for delivering benefits to every customer, whether such 11 benefits are direct or indirect. The Company's 12 intention is for these meters to remain in place 13 whether or not the Company's AMI plan is approved as 14 proposed. 15 Ο. Does the CPB have any other comments on the AMI 16 proposal? 17 Schultz/DeRonne question the fact that the AMI Α. Yes. 18 communication system will be installed in advance of 19 meter installations, wondering how the system can be tested if the meters have not been installed. 20 21 also observe that much of the O&M project costs will be 22 experienced prior to full AMI deployment.
- 23 Do you agree with these concerns? Q.

1 Α. No. Multiple deployment strategies can be used for AMI implementation. The Company's AMI proposal provides 2 for the installation of the communications 3 4 infrastructure prior to the installation of meters. Under this approach, meters can be communication 5 enabled as they're installed. This method enables 6 7 communication for the widespread geographic deployment of AMI as well as the deployment of AMI at locations 8 9 where meters are installed or replaced during the 10 normal course of business. This deployment strategy 11 does require that much of the O&M project costs be experienced prior to full AMI deployment. 12 13 Does the City comment on the economics of AMI Ο. 14 implementation and deployment strategy? 15 Α. Yes, City witness Chernick suggests that for the meters to be cost-effective, Con Edison (and/or an ESCO) must 16 17 develop a market-responsive rate structure and the infrastructure to inform customers of dynamic market 18 19 prices. Furthermore, customers must be able and willing 20 to respond to those price signals. The City goes on to 21 state that meters should be deployed to the largest 22 customers first and that the Company should thereafter 23 regularly re-examine the economics of advanced meters 24 for progressively smaller customers.

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1 Q. Do you agree with the City's statements in this regard? 2 The City is focusing on only one aspect of the Α. advanced metering solution as a basis for the 3 4 cost/benefit analysis and for deployment planning. While the Company agrees with the importance of real-5 6 time-pricing with respect to demand response, the 7 benefits of deploying AMI are derived from a number of sources. Over the long run, the most significant 8 direct benefit is expected to be the reduction in the 9 10 Company's meter reading costs. Due to this, the 11 strategy for meter deployment must be considered in 12 relation to the cost to read meters in specific 13 geographic areas. It was this rationale that led the 14 Company to commence deployment of automated meter reading ("AMR") in Westchester before other regions in 15 our service territory. Appreciating this, one sees the 16 17 benefit of deploying meters to cover complete meter 18 reading routes as opposed to the selective deployment that would result under the model suggested by the 19 City. It should also be noted that the Company has 20 21 already presented a positive economic business case for 22 the implementation of AMI to our complete customer 23 population as part of the Company's AMI filing. Please continue. 24 Q.

1	Α.	The Company's proposal to expand its Mandatory Hourly
2		Pricing ("MHP") program serves to address the City's
3		interest in enabling the Company's largest customers to
4		participate in demand response programs. The expansion
5		of MHP will include customers over 500 kW. We also
6		note that the Company's AMI plan includes pre-
7		deployment projects that will enable a similar range of
8		tests to those identified by the City and, further,
9		under the Company's AMI plan, the Company anticipates
10		that universal deployment of AMI meters will be
11		completed by 2014 in line with PlaNYC.
12	Q.	Please summarize your position as to AMI costs.
13	A.	The Company is currently pursuing AMI consistent with
14		energy policy established by the Commission, the
15		Governor, New York City and other jurisdictions. The
16		time is ripe to rule on the Company's proposed costs in
17		this rate proceeding. Action in this proceeding will
18		not interfere with Commission action in the AMI
19		proceeding, should the Commission decide to accelerate
20		the processes in that proceeding. Moreover, any
21		decision in the AMI proceeding before a decision on the
22		Company's rate filing would be duly considered by the
23		Commission in rendering a decision in this case.

1 The Company has initiated its AMI program in good faith and in furtherance of Commission policies. However, it 2 cannot do so indefinitely. The prospect that the 3 4 Commission will not act on the Company's AMI plan in 5 this proceeding or by March 2008 in the AMI proceeding 6 must necessarily cause the Company to reevaluate its current efforts and to consider terminating or 7 suspending those efforts, which would be to the 8 detriment of its customers and other stakeholders. 9 10 MANDATORY HOURLY PRICING EXPANSION Do any of the parties address the Company's Mandatory 11 Ο. 12 Hourly Pricing (MHP) Expansion program? 13 Yes. Staff witness Graves states that the roll out and Α. 14 expansion of MHP for customers with demands over 1 MW 15 and up to and including 1.5 MW should be delayed to 16 allow these customers the opportunity to review at 17 least six months of hourly load data, including their 18 usage in the summer months. In regard to those 19 customers with demand over 500 kW and up to and including 1 MW, Mr. Graves says that installation of 20 21 interval meters should be timed to provide those 22 customers with at least one full year of interval load 23 data.

1	Q.	Do you agree that the availability of six months of
2		interval data should be a prerequisite to
3		MHP implementation for customers over 1 MW?
4	Α.	No. First, it should be noted that the Commission has
5		not heretofore established a minimum period of exposure
6		to hourly usage and demand data before hourly pricing
7		is implemented. Second, in the Commission's Order
8		Instituting Further Proceedings and Requiring the
9		Filing of Draft Tariffs, (issued Sept. 23, 2005, in
10		Case No. 03-E-0641, p. 9), the Commission stated,
11		"Accelerating the implementation of RTP is a necessary
12		response to burdensome electricity price increases,"
13		and noted its desire to implement hourly pricing
14		expeditiously in order to provide accurate price
15		signals, afford an opportunity for customers to shift
16		load and realize potential savings, and to reduce peak
17		system demand, particularly in the summer.
18		The Commission's subsequent order, Order Denying
19		Petitions for Rehearing and Clarification in Part and
20		Adopting Mandatory Pricing Requirements (issued April
21		24, 2006), expressed the Commission's conclusion that
22		establishment of hourly pricing was critical before the
23		summer to encourage demand response given the tighter
24		load and capacity situation in the downstate area.

1 Ο. Please continue. The Company's MHP proposal supports an accelerated 2 Α. 3 schedule for the implementation of RTP. Under this 4 schedule, MHP billing will be implemented in January 5 2009 for customers over 1 MW and January 2010 for 6 customers over 500 kW to encourage demand response at 7 the earliest practical date. The Company's plan provides for an extensive outreach and education 8 9 program prior to the implementation of MHP billing. Ιt 10 also provides customers with access to interval data 11 prior to the summer period that MHP billing would be in 12 effect. 13 Can you project the impact of implementing Mr. Graves's Ο. 14 proposal to provide for access to interval load data 15 for a six-month period to customers over 1 MW and a 12month period to customers over 500 kW, including the 16 17 summer, prior to the initiation of MHP billing? 18 Even with an aggressive installation schedule, we Α. 19 estimate expansion of MHP billing would have to be delayed for customers over 1 MW from January 2009 until 20 21 no earlier than Fall 2009. Thus, the earliest summer 22 period that MHP billing would be in effect for 23 customers over 1 MW would be Summer 2010. Likewise, for customers over 500 kW, MHP billing would be delayed 24

- with Summer 2011 the earliest summer period that MHP
- 2 billing would be in effect.
- 3 Q. Witness Graves testimony notes the experience of
- 4 National Grid in installing interval meters over seven
- 5 months in 2006. In its report of July 30, 2007,
- 6 "Mandatory Hourly Pricing Six Month Evaluation,"
- 7 National Grid reported that seven months was not enough
- 8 time to procure, program, test and install meters (p.
- 9 9).
- 10 Q. How does the Company's plan address these issues?
- 11 A. The Company's MHP implementation schedule allows
- 12 sufficient time for the installation of meters,
- outreach and education, and the implementation of a
- 14 meter data management system. The availability of
- interval data to these customers, together with our
- 16 outreach and education efforts, will enable customers
- to be properly prepared for their first summer under
- 18 the MHP pricing model.
- 19 Q. Please describe the Outreach and Education program
- 20 proposed by Mr. Graves.
- 21 A. Mr. Graves proposes a very expansive outreach and
- 22 education effort, including communication with Con
- 23 Edison personnel; live information sessions/seminars
- with customers (including those over 1.5 MW),

# CUSTOMER OPERATIONS PANEL - ELECTRIC REBUTTAL 1 consultants, and ESCOs; webcast/video of workshops; 2 training on software tools; and a monthly newsletter.

- 3 He also proposes that the outreach and education be
- 4 expanded to include energy efficiency, distributed
- 5 generation, and use of financial hedges.
- 6 Q. Do you agree with his proposal?
- 7 A. We agree with his objective but find his overall
- 8 program to be somewhat excessive. Con Edison proposed
- 9 an extensive outreach and education program using
- direct mail and bill inserts to both full service and
- 11 retail access customers with demands over 500 kW up to
- and including 1.5 MW, including customers that will be
- 13 exempt, and may include information exchange meetings.
- 14 Like Mr. Graves, the Company believes in the importance
- of outreach and education in this area to properly
- 16 support our customers. However, we would note that our
- 17 ability to support even our current outreach and
- 18 education plan, which is less costly than that
- 19 recommended by Mr. Graves, would be considerably
- 20 undermined by the adoption of the Staff Consumer
- 21 Services Panel's (the "CS Panel" or the "CSP")
- 22 recommendations in respect to our general Outreach and
- 23 Education plan.
- 24 Q. Please explain.

1 Α. The CS Panel would require removal of the majority of 2 the new outreach and education programs that the Company has proposed, including education in regard to 3 4 the MHP expansion. As explained later on, without the 5 outreach and education funding requested, the Company 6 will have to considerably reduce its current plans. 7 Needless to say, it will be impossible under these conditions to embark on the much more expansive 8 9 campaign envisioned by Mr. Graves. Moreover, even if 10 the Company is granted the funding it requested for 11 outreach and education, additional funding, estimated to be \$100,000 per year, would be required to implement 12 13 Mr. Graves' plan. 14 Q. Mr. Graves suggests elimination of the \$1,000 special charge when meter access is denied because he believes 15 that Con Edison's previous experience, from 15 years 16 17 ago, predicts that one customer would refuse Con Edison 18 access to change its meter. Further he states that he 19 does not believe that Con Edison's past experience with time-of-use customers is a good guide for this 20 installation of interval meters. Mr. Graves claims 21 22 that customers trying to avoid MHP can do so by simply 23 switching to an ESCO, an option not available in 1992. 24 Mr. Graves also cites National Grid as not reporting

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1 any such problems during their recent meter roll-out. Do you agree? 2 Although the Company expects that the number of 3 4 cases where we would actually impose the fee would be 5 very small, such a fee is necessary to encourage all 6 customers to provide timely access. In our experience 7 with the time-of use program and DC elimination program, some customers do not freely provide access 8 9 for some reason or no reason. Experience dictates that 10 some customers believe they will be disadvantaged by 11 And Mr. Graves is incorrect when he suggests that customers migrating to retail access can avoid the 12 13 impact of hourly usage measurement. In fact, the 14 customer's energy costs will most likely reflect the 15 customer's hourly usage whether the customer purchases supply from the utility or from an ESCO. If the fee 16 17 were eliminated, the Company would be without any 18 leverage to encourage cooperation by customers that 19 have a direct interest in delaying the meter conversion. Although Mr. Graves observes that National 20 21 Grid, which operates in a very different supply 22 environment to Con Edison, did not mention any problems 23 accessing meters in their "Mandatory Hourly Pricing Six Month Evaluation," this report does not comment 24

- specifically on the subject of meter access.
- 2 Therefore, no conclusions can be drawn on this issue
- 3 from that report.
- 4 Q. Mr. Graves recommends (p. 20) that Con Edison's meter
- 5 costs "be recovered via a tariffed incremental meter
- 6 charge in conformance with the Commission's April 2006
- 7 MHP Order" in Case 03-E-0641, Order Denying Petitions
- 8 for Rehearing and Clarification in Part and Adopting
- 9 Mandatory Hourly Pricing Requirements (issued April 24,
- 10 2006) (the "April 2006 Order"). Do you agree with this
- 11 suggestion?
- 12 A. No. The Company believes that all MHP program costs,
- including metering costs, should be recovered via
- 14 delivery rates because MHP is deemed to benefit all
- 15 customers. The April 2006 Order did not require that
- 16 MHP customers bear this burden alone, only that they
- 17 not bear it as a lump-sum, up-front charge.
- 18 Q. Do you have any comments on the position taken by City
- 19 witness Rosenberg related to real time pricing (RTP)?
- 20 A. We do not but the Electric Rate Panel testifies with
- respect to Dr. Rosenberg's comments on this subject.
- 22 CALL CENTER APPLICATIONS
- 23 Q. Does any party address the Company's proposals for Call
- 24 Center enhancements?

1	Α.	Yes, the CSP does not support the Call Center
2		enhancements, including the increase of Call Center
3		staffing by 36 customer service representatives
4		("CSRs") and two managers, speech recognition
5		technology and remote agent technology. Also CSP
6		partially rejects the Company's request to add
7		additional outbound lines at the Call Center, scaling
8		back the Company's request from 48 to 24 additional
9		lines. They accept the Company's request for an
LO		uninterrupted power supply for the Call Center.
L1	Q.	What reasons does the CS Panel give for these
L2		adjustments?
L3	Α.	CSP notes that conclusions reached by Staff in their
L 4		February reports on service outages in Westchester and
L5		Long Island City indicate that investments in the Call
L6		Center are unnecessary. Specifically, CSP cites
L7		Staff's February 9, 2007 report on the Long Island City
L8		network outage that concluded, "Con Edison performed
L9		well with regard to providing a sufficient number of
20		representatives for the Call Center, in providing
21		adequate incoming lines" and in answering calls "within
22		a reasonable time." As to the speech recognition
23		technology, they claim that it is a non-essential

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1 investment given the magnitude of the infrastructure investment presented in this case. 2 As to the staffing, do you agree with CSP position? 3 4 It should be recognized that the increase in CSRs Α. 5 is intended to support overall staffing levels and is 6 not targeted to service specifically in times of 7 emergency. CSP testimony focuses on the Company's staffing resources during major outages. During these 8 9 events non-emergency calls are deferred so that all 10 available resources are prioritized to meet the demands 11 at the time. CSP does not consider the full effect of 12 the need for increased Call Center staffing during non-13 emergencies. Less than five percent of the total calls 14 the Company receives each year are emergency-related. CSP notes that the Company's proposed investments to 15 its electric infrastructure will diminish the need for 16 17 extra staffing over time. However, since the Company's proposal to increase staff is not focused on emergency 18 19 calls, the link made by CSP is inapt. Please explain the need for increased staffing in non-20 Ο. 21 emergency situations. 22 Α. The Company's need for increased staffing originates 23 with the high attrition rate of Customer Service Representatives ("CSRs") in the Call Center. The high 24

1 attrition rate means that new hires come in to the Call Center and need to be trained. In recent years, it has 2 become difficult to maintain full staffing of the Call 3 4 Center as a number of the staff are consistently in 5 training. Specifically, the Call Center has operated at a deficit of 36 fully trained CSRs. 6 7 availability of Call Center personnel is important so that customers can continue to receive appropriate 8 9 service for both emergency and non-emergency calls. 10 Thus, the Company proposed to hire an equivalent number 11 of additional Call Center employees to be able to adequately staff positions while members of this group 12 13 of employees are at training. 14 Q. Please respond to CSP's position in regard to the 15 remote agent program. CSP relates the remote agent technology to the need for 16 17 an increased level of staffing. This association is 18 incorrect. The remote agent technology is a key 19 ingredient to the Call Center's business continuity strategy and is not driven by staffing levels. 20 21 technology offers our workforce the ability to handle 22 customer calls remotely during emergencies and other 23 times when staffing demands surge and is intended to

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help customers in any situation, including a disaster,

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- 1 get through to the Company. This is an important communication element. Further, and as explained in 2 our initial testimony, this technology offers 3 4 flexibility in staffing and broadens the pool of 5 prospective employees that can be recruited for positions in the Call Center. 6 7 CSP suggests that the enhancement of speech recognition Q. 8 software is unnecessary and might be replaced by a less 9 costly touch-pad based solution. Further CSP states 10 that the Company must prioritize its "non-essential" 11 investments in light of the magnitude of the Company's 12 rate increase request. 13 Do you agree? Ο. 14 Α. While one can debate the meaning of "essential," we do 15 believe that this program is important and should be 16 funded. 17 Please explain. Q. 18 Because our IVR is approaching the end of its useful Α. 19 life, the Company initiated the selection and installation of a speech recognition solution. 20 21 provides our customers with a comprehensive and 22 intuitive automatic communications facility.
  - ensure that the highest number of customers possible

Maintaining and enhancing this system is necessary to

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1 are satisfied with the service they receive via this 2 system. Although the CS Panel does not accept the Company's 3 4 proposal to increase outbound lines from 24 to 72, the 5 Panel does say that a smaller increase in outbound 6 lines is appropriate. What is your response to this? 7 By proposing that the Company increase its outbound lines by 24, CSP clearly recognizes the importance of 8 9 this facility. However, its failure to support the 10 Company's entire request seems to be based on an 11 arbitrary decision on the number of lines required. contrast, the Company's proposal was based on a careful 12 13 study of the requirements of the Emergency Control 14 System (ECS), and specifically the number of lines 15 required to support peak outbound requirements. 16 Company has a responsibility to prepare for the worst-17 case scenario, such as a system-wide event, rather than 18 an event occurring in one operating area, such as a 19 storm in the Westchester area. We believe that such preparation is what is expected of us by all of our 20 21 stakeholders, including Staff. LOW INCOME PROGRAM 22 23 The CS Panel recommends that the monthly customer Ο. charge payable by low income customers participating in 24

- 1 the low income program be frozen at \$6.50. Do you 2 agree? 3 No, we do not. The Company currently provides for a 4 discount of approximately \$5 per month to eligible 5 customers. As indicated in our initial testimony, the 6 Company proposes to continue the discount at this 7 level. What reasons does Staff give for its proposed increase? 8 9 Staff says that its proposed discount is reasonable Α. 10 given the rising cost of electricity, the impact of 11 electricity costs on low income customers, and the potential for offsetting benefits to the Company and 12 13 all customers. 14 Q. Do you agree with Staff's rationale for their proposed 15 increase? No, we do not. Staff's very general rationale could 16 17 arguably support any discount amount. Staff's 18 recommendation would result in a monthly discount of 19 \$8.71 from the Company's proposed customer charge. This is an increase in the discount of approximately 75 20 21 percent, which we believe would place an unreasonable 22 additional subsidy on the Company's other customers.
- 23 IMPROVEMENTS IN FIELD OPERATIONS

- REBUTTAL 1 Q. The CS Panel discusses the Company's proposal to 2 increase Field Operations Customer Field Representatives ("CFRs") available to read the meters 3 4 on demand-metered accounts and investigate ("field") 5 inactive accounts. Please describe the CS Panel's 6 testimony. 7 The CS Panel comments first on the work volume of the 8 proposed CFRs. Referring to the Company's response to 9 CPB 14-k, they observe that the Company's staffing 10 request is mostly in the service of fielding meters 11 where consumption is reported on inactive accounts. Do you agree with this characterization? 12 13 Α. The Company's response to CPB 14-k indicates that 14 of the 15 CFRs requested, seven positions are needed to support activity on inactive accounts and eight CFRs 15 16 are needed to support demand meter reading. 17 MARK FOR IDENTIFICATION AS EXHIBIT\_\_\_ (CO-5) 18 That is, less than half the Company's request would be 19 dedicated to the fielding of meters where consumption is reported on inactive accounts. 20 21 Please continue. Ο. 22 Α. The CS Panel further notes that the fielding of such
- 23 accounts protects the Company's revenues by providing
- for the billing of revenues associated with these 24

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- 1 accounts and the resolution of service responsibility issues between the old and new customers. 2 3 this, CSP claims that these new positions should be 4 self-funding. 5 Ο. Do you agree? Inactive meters need to be addressed to the 6 Α. 7 benefit of all legitimate stakeholders. We have an obligation to the community to take steps to protect 8 9 the integrity of our infrastructure and to identify 10 those who may be improperly utilizing our service. In 11 addition, by their very nature, these inactive meters are difficult to resolve and the potential revenues 12 13 that may be produced by this activity are therefore 14 speculative at best. Accordingly, the Company should 15 not be denied recovery of reasonably incurred expenses 16 for discharging its responsibilities. 17 Please summarize your position as to this request. Q. For the reasons stated above, the entire request to 18 Α. 19 increase Field Operations staffing should be granted. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION 20 21 The CS Panel recommends that the Company's proposed Ο. 22 Outreach and Education ("O&E") program be substantially

reduced because the magnitude of the requested increase

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1		for O&E and the resulting bill impacts cannot be
2		justified. Do you agree?
3	Α.	No, we do not. The CS Panel recommendation is
4		unsupported by any specific concern about the program
5		or its components. A significant and detailed program,
6		which has been structured to meet one of the
7		Commission's core objectives - the educational needs of
8		our customers in regard to a wide range of current and
9		rising issues - should not be dismissed in such a
10		fashion, especially in light of Staff's acknowledgement
11		as to the effectiveness of the Company's historical
12		efforts in this area (p. 19). In addition, we would
13		note that while Staff premises its opposition to this
14		program on the resulting bill impacts, the bill impacts
15		would be significantly lower than those that would be
16		experienced if the low income program increase
17		recommended by the Staff were adopted. The needs of
18		our general body of customers, which include low income
19		customers, are no less important than a program
20		targeted exclusively for low income customers.
21	Q.	Please continue.
22	Α.	We proposed specific programs, with specific goals
23		intended to contribute to meeting Commission concerns
24		about educating customers on energy efficiency and

1		power problems and other important issues of our day,
2		including new and additional efforts in reaching
3		customers whose first language may not be English.
4		We also note that since this rate case was filed, the
5		Commission has ordered Con Edison to enhance its
6		communications with customers in connection with power
7		outages (see Case No. 06-E-0894, Order Implementing
8		Outage Recommendations, July 20, 2007). The order
9		directs Con Edison to "periodically notify its
10		customers through a variety of methods, including
11		bill inserts, advertisements, and public service
12		announcements" how to respond to service outages and
13		what information to expect the utility to provide.
14	Q.	Do Staff witnesses take a consistent approach on
15		outreach and education funding?
16	Α.	Not as we read their testimony. As indicated earlier
17		in this rebuttal testimony, Staff witness Graves
18		recommends that the Company should expand its outreach
19		and education efforts associated with the Mandatory
20		Hourly Pricing program. However, we read the CS
21		Panel's testimony as eviscerating the Company's planned
22		MHP outreach efforts and certainly precluding the
23		increase in related activities contemplated by Mr.
24		Graves.

1 Q. Does CSP make any further recommendations? CSP recommends that the Company be directed to 2 Α. develop and present annually a detailed public 3 4 awareness, outreach and education program plan. 5 plan is to be presented at least 90 days before the date of implementation, in order to be evaluated on an 6 7 expedited basis through a collaborative discussion as to both program content and final budget. 8 9 What is the Company's response to this proposal? 0. 10 First, as previously stated, the CS Panel acknowledges 11 in their testimony the historical success of the 12 Company in regard to managing its outreach and 13 education program. Second, for the last three years, 14 Staff has asked the Company twice each year to submit 15 public awareness and education plans for the upcoming 16 This has occurred for the years 2005, 2006 and 17 the current year, 2007. The Company has freely 18 provided these plans to Staff as requested. Staff has 19 indicated that the information they obtain from the utilities about their public awareness and education 20 21 plans are compiled along with the Commission's and 22 NYSERDA's program information and are used to help 23 Staff monitor statewide energy awareness and education efforts. In addition, Staff makes their own plans 24

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### CUSTOMER OPERATIONS PANEL - ELECTRIC REBUTTAL

known to the utilities and urges the utilities to

ensure that the particular messages that are identified 2 3 by Staff are promoted. 4 Please continue. 0. 5 This process for exchanging information has worked well Α. in the past and has proved to be a viable and efficient 6 7 way to keep all the parties informed of each other's plans and campaigns. Each party is free to develop and 8 plan according to the needs of their individual 9 10 stakeholders and it has historically been a very successful process. It has also allowed all parties 11 the time to plan their respective programs and 12 13 campaigns well in advance of the season. This helps 14 parties take advantage of securing media outlets early in a cost effective manner, and to adequately plan for 15 16 campaigns and secure event space and cooperation from 17 partners in various programs. In this regard, we 18 believe we are already exceeding CS Panel's 19 recommendation, and, therefore, no additional reporting 20 requirement should be imposed. It seems contradictory 21 to us that the CS Panel suggests adding a process that 22 would impose additional administrative costs at the 23 same time as it is suggesting costs be reduced. 24 note, in addition, that the proposal neither estimates

1		nor provides for an adjustment to the revenue
2		requirement for such costs. Further, we maintain that
3		the process we have described above, which has been
4		taking place for the last three years, has been
5		successful and has addressed the need for collaboration
6		between the utilities, Staff and NYSERDA. We believe
7		that the CS Panel's suggestion is redundant in the
8		context of the existing process.
9	Q.	Has any other party addressed the Company's Outreach
10		and Education Program?
11	A.	Yes. CPB witnesses Schultz/DeRonne submitted testimony
12		on this subject.
13	Q.	Do Mr. Schultz and Ms. DeRonne have a general comment
14		in regard to the Company's filing?
15	A.	Yes. The witnesses suggest that the Company's filing
16		lacks organization, detail and cross referencing. They
17		go on to suggest that the CO Panel lacks awareness of
18		what is included in the filing. This is clearly a
19		gross mischaracterization of the facts. The Company
20		accepts it made an error of omission in regard to CPB
21		IR 14g in that we failed to respond to the question
22		where the \$1.3 million increase for Customer Service
23		Representatives is shown on a CO Panel exhibit. In
24		fact, this cost was not presented on any CO Panel

### Case No. 07-E-0523 CUSTOMER OPERATIONS PAN

1		exhibit. However, that error does not provide a basis
2		for CPB's broad criticisms of the Company's detailed
3		proposal or its recommendations to reject the expenses
4		for the necessary programs. Moreover, we refer you to
5		the Accounting Panel's general rebuttal of CPB's
6		unfounded criticisms of the myriad information provided
7		by the Company in this proceeding in support of its
8		programs.
9	Q.	Do you agree with the CPB witnesses' testimony in
10		regard to the Outreach and Education program?
11	Α.	No. First and foremost, CPB suggests that the Outreach
12		and Education request for \$10.15 million be reduced by
13		\$4.46 million, in large part by eliminating most of the
14		funds intended for direct mail distributions of
15		information. They say that informational material
16		could instead be provided by bill insert or via other
17		channels, such as the Company website. They do not
18		address the portion of our testimony that explains that
19		we have established, through customer surveys that
20		information by direct mail is a preferred form of
21		communication from the Company. This same research has
22		established that the Company website, while a valuable
23		tool for many communication initiatives, is not as
24		effective a channel for these messages at this time.

1 Ο. Please continue. As explained in our testimony, people respond to 2 information differently when it is presented in 3 4 different ways. For some customers, bill inserts are 5 the most effective means while for others separate 6 mailings (direct mail) have more of an impact. 7 other customers and non-customers prefer to receive information over the Internet while some people want to 8 9 see it in their daily or community newspapers, hear it 10 on the radio or see it on transit posters and 11 advertisements. Considering the very real costs of electricity and its importance in our customers' daily 12 13 lives, we need to communicate with them, the members of 14 their households, consumers who are not direct customers, landlords, elected officials, and others in 15 16 different ways. 17 CPB suggests that the Company has not provided the Q. 18 appropriate level of documentation to support the 19 increase requested. How do you respond to CPB's claim? CPB's witnesses were apparently concerned that the 20 21 Company did not present a detailed project plan for 22 each expenditure in each category. This would not have 23 been practicable. The Company has provided a detailed 24 explanation of each expected program cost both via our

1		original testimony and the associated exhibit
2		(ExhibitCO-3). These program costs have been provided
3		in greater detail than in previous rate cases. We also
4		refer to our testimony above regarding our voluntary
5		submission of our O&E programs to Staff at the
6		commencement of each season. This recognizes that the
7		specific details sought by CPB are not available now,
8		as these materials are developed on a more current
9		basis to reflect, among other things, recent events,
10		new Commission policies, changes in technology, and the
11		like.
12	Q.	Apart from the documentation issue above, CPB claims
13		the increase in regard to media spending is excessive.
14		How do you respond?
15	Α.	The increase in media spending from \$1.465 million to
16		\$4.265 million reflects \$800,000 for web-based
17		educational messaging. That leaves an increase for
18		print, radio and transit messaging of \$2 million. In
19		the market in which Con Edison operates, this amount
20		represents a modest amount by any standard. We
21		increasingly use ethnic- and community- based
22		publications to reach segments of the customer base
23		that respond to languages other than English. Con
24		Edison is challenged to communicate to a vastly

### Case No. 07-E-0523 CUSTOMER OPERATIONS

1	different and growing population to a much greater
2	degree than other utilities in the state. As an
3	example, based on the 2000 Census, the percentage of
4	household members aged five or more who speak a
5	language other than English is 47.6% in New York City
6	and 28.4% in Westchester County. For other areas in
7	the state, the corresponding percent is 12.4% for
8	Buffalo, 13.2% for Albany, 13.6% for Binghamton, 12.0%
9	for Troy and 13.2% for Syracuse.
10	As we branch out to a greater variety of media to reach
11	consumers, more funding is required.
12	While the outreach and education programs we conducted
13	in the past and the vehicles we have used have been
14	proven successful, we continue to make a concerted
15	effort to deliver messages to our customers in a
16	variety of formats using various media to better
17	educate and inform them about issues concerning their
18	safety and their rights and responsibilities as utility
19	customers. However, in response to our
20	responsibilities to our customers and others in our
21	service territory, we cannot rest on our past
22	achievements and it is incumbent on us to always
23	explore new and better vehicles for delivering our
24	messages.

- On the basis of the foregoing, we believe that the
- 2 costs for the program as originally presented and
- 3 further explained above are appropriate and should not
- 4 be reduced.
- 5 Street Lighting
- 6 Q. Do any of the witnesses discuss Con Edison's street
- 7 lighting billing system (SLBS)?
- 8 A. Yes. NYC witness Galgano states (p. 2) that he
- 9 believes that "the Company historically has done a poor
- job of maintaining accurate records of New York City
- 11 street lights." He also states that the Company has
- failed to meet requirements set forth in the current
- 13 electric rate plan with regard to development and
- implementation of a new street light billing system
- 15 (SLBS).
- 16 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Galgano's characterization of the
- 17 street light register and the status of the new SLBS?
- 18 A. No. We believe Mr. Galgano makes errors of fact and
- 19 omission.
- 20 Q. Please explain your position in regard to the Company's
- 21 streetlight records.
- 22 A. We take exception to inferences in Mr. Galgano's
- statements as to the Company's failing to maintain
- 24 accurate records of New York City street lights. The

1		responsibility for maintaining accurate street light
2		records resides with both parties. The City is
3		responsible for providing accurate and timely
4		information about street light installations, removals,
5		and changes in lamp size. The Company has been
6		responsible for updating the streetlight register with
7		this information on a timely basis. The parties to the
8		2005 Joint Proposal underlying the current electric
9		rate plan agreed that a SLBS would aid in the
10		maintenance of records that reflect all lamp changes on
11		a more contemporaneous basis. The City has been
12		deficient at times at providing timely and accurate
13		information. If the City provides inaccurate
14		information to the new system, the register will be no
15		more correct than it is now.
16	Q.	What is your position in regard to the development of
17		the new SLBS?
18	A.	Mr. Galgano is correct that the system is not yet in
19		use. That is not to say that the Company did not
20		fulfill the requirements of the current electric rate
21		plan in respect to the development and construction of
22		this system. The Company, in full compliance with the
23		current rate plan, developed a new SLBS that satisfied
24		all of the requirements agreed to by the Company New

1 York Power Authority, and the City in the Functional Scope Document dated April 1, 2005. According to the 2 3 Rate Plan, the City was to accept this system based on 4 its conformance to the design requirements. The City 5 did not accept the new system but requested changes 6 that go beyond the original scope. Therefore, the 7 system is not yet available for use. In the spirit of collaboration, we are in the process of making these 8 9 changes, and completion is expected in December 2007. 10 Retail Access Program 11 Do any of the witnesses discuss Con Edison's retail 12 electric market? 13 RESA witness Smith discusses the current status Α. of the retail electric market in New York and notes 14 "that the number of customers served by ESCOs in the 15 mass market has increased and that the Con Edison 16 17 service territory has made significant progress." She further notes that "the programs introduced by the 18 19 Commission and implemented by Con Edison have played a 20 critical role in increasing customer awareness of their 21 options in the marketplace, and in facilitating the 22 exercise of choice by a growing number of customers who

24

- 1 have found benefits and value among their competitive options." 2 Please continue. 3 Ο. 4 Witness Smith further notes that "referral programs, Α. 5 for the customers of utilities such as Con Edison, have 6 significantly reduced barriers" to competition. 7 notes that these programs offer customers who make telephonic contact with the utility information on the 8 9 referral program. She further notes that "new 10 customers" "are not provided the same opportunity to 11 take advantage of the ESCO referral as are existing customers who contact Con Edison" and recommends that 12 13 Con Edison's existing referral program be expanded to 14 apply to customers who are designated "new customers." She also notes that this enhancement of the referral 15 program could be could be made with a "modicum of 16 17 additional effort and expense." 18 Do you agree with Witness Smith's characterization of Ο. 19 Con Edison's referral program and the changes that should be made to it? 20 21 Customers calling the Call Center are not Α. 22 automatically provided information about the referral 23 program. Customers are provided with information about
  - the Con Edison referral program through a number of

- 1 vehicles including via the customer bill and Company web site. Customers may enroll in the referral program 2 via a number of vehicles including enrollment via a 3 4 toll free telephone number and website. In addition, 5 customers may contact our Call Center and be enrolled 6 in the referral program. 7 Please continue. 0. 8 With respect to making the referral program available Α. 9 to new customers, expansion of the referral program 10 will require system and process changes that are not insignificant. 11 Is the Company willing to expand the referral program 12 13 to make it available to new customers? 14 Α. The Company is willing to evaluate technology and 15 funding issues related to expanding our referral 16 program to make it available to new customers. 17 Witness Smith also recommends that a collaborative be Q. 18 instituted to examine providing ESCOs with access to 19 relevant customer data in a just and reasonable manner. Do you agree with this recommendation? 20 21 The Commission is currently examining Retail Α. 22 Access programs and practices in Case 07-M-045,
- 23 Proceeding on Motion to Review Policies and Practices
- Intended to Foster the Development of Competitive

### 1 Retail Energy Markets. This issue should be addressed

- 2 in that proceeding.
- 3 Q. Witness Dowling of Consumer Power Advocates states that
- 4 Con Edison should provide to customers the identical
- 5 access to the Retail Access Information System as is
- 6 now provided only to ESCOs. Do you agree with this
- 7 proposal?
- 8 A. No. Much of the information on RAIS can be accessed
- 9 via the RAIS website in the "view only mode." Other
- 10 customer data is available on My Account on
- 11 www.coned.com and on the DMS website to which access
- can be arranged at the customer's request.
- 13 Q. Does this complete the Panel's rebuttal testimony?
- 14 A. Yes.

Data requests to DPS Staff (Michael Rieder) (question 12):

#### **Question 12:**

On pages 3-4 and 26, Staff states that there is a pending proceeding before the Commission for AMI:

- a) What is the status of this proceeding?
- b) Who are the Staff members assigned?
- c) What are the procedural steps being undertaken as part of the AMI proceeding?
- d) Is there an expected date for a Commission decision in that proceeding?
- e) How does Staff propose the Company's AMI costs should be recovered if the Company's AMI plan is approved by the Commission?
- f) What depreciation rates are applicable to the various components of AMI investment?

#### Response:

- a) The status of the Commission's advanced metering proceeding (Case Nos. 94-E-0952, 00-E-0165, 02-M-0514) is on-going. By Order issued August 1, 2006, utilities were directed to file plans for development and deployment of advanced electric metering system. Plans were received on or about February 1, 2007 and on March 28, 2007 from Con Edison and Orange and Rockland. The plans are currently being reviewed by staff.
- b) A staff team has been assembled to review the plans. The staff team leads are Martin Insogna and Michael Rieder.
- c) Staff is reviewing the plans, holding further discussion with the utilities, seeking additional information, and will prepare its recommendation to the Commission.
- d) No.
- e) At this time, Staff has not developed a proposed method for cost recovery of the Company's proposed AMI plan.
  - f) At this time, Staff has not developed proposed depreciation rates applicable to the various components of the AMI investment.

Company Name: Con Edison
Case Description: Electric Rate Filing
Case: 07-E-0523

Response to CPB Interrogatories – Set CPB1

Date of Response:

Responding Witness:

#### Question No. :14k

(k) Subject: Customer Operations. Refer to pages 32-34 of the Customer Operations Panel Testimony. Provide a detailed explanation of how the added employees will improve the access to the meters, how the increase in CFR employees was determined, show the calculation, explain how the Company plans to fill the positions and by why date. Also identify where the costs are shown on a Customer Operation Panel's exhibit and where the costs are reflected on Exhibit\_\_ (AP-5), Schedule 8.

#### **RESPONSE:**

Fifteen additional CFRs are requested to address demand meter reading where access to the meter is a problem and the field visits to meters where consumption is reported on inactive accounts. The additional CFRs requested to read demand meters where access is a problem will improve access to these meters by supporting the multiple efforts needed to gain access to these meters.

Components and the calculation used to derive the increase of 15 CFRs to address demand meter reading and the field visits to meters where consumption is reported on inactive accounts are below.

#### **Components:**

- Increase in projected work volumes
  - o For demand meter reading Projected volume of demand meters where access is a problem is based on increase of 3,774 work units in 2007.
  - o For inactive accounts Projected volume of inactive accounts where consumption is reported is based on increase of 12,718 work units in 2007.
- Time Required to perform the work function Based on the average time needed to perform the work function plus the additional time associated with performing the work function (travel time to the location and delays experienced related to the performance of the work function such as time needed to gain access to the meter or individuals needed to provide information)
- Human resources formula (variations in work volumes) x (time required to perform the work function) / (60 to establish hours) / (available annual work hours).

#### **Calculation:**

Year	Inactive Accounts	Demand Meter Reading	Total	Time Required (Minutes)	HR
2007 Projected	175,250	98,135	273,385		
2006 Actual	162,532	94,361	256,893	10.4	1.5
Variations	50,872	26,638	77,510	18.4	15

Seven (7) CFR positions needed to support activity on inactive accounts were filled June 2007.

Eight (8) CFR positions needed to support demand meter reading expected to be filled July 2007.

The costs for this program are not presented in a Customer Operation Panel exhibit. These costs are reflected on Exhibit \_\_ (AP-5), Schedule 6, page 3, not on Schedule 8.